

VLR - 2/20/90
NRHP - 12/28/90United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name GALLISON HALL
other names/site number DHR File No. 02-808

2. Location

street & number 24 Farmington Drive N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town Charlottesville ☒ vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Albemarle code 003 zip code 22901

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

Nov 9 1990In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

LANDSCAPE: Garden

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

LANDSCAPE: Garden

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Georgian Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Slate

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Gallison Hall is situated in Farmington, approximately three miles west of Charlottesville. The residence stands amidst forty-four acres of expansive lawns and woods and is reached by a long circular drive from the south. The residence, designed by the architect Stanhope Johnson in the Georgian Revival style, was built between 1931 and 1933 and is in excellent condition. It consists of a two-and-one-half-story, five-bay brick center section with a steeply pitched hipped roof flanked by one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, gable-roofed wings placed perpendicular to the main section and connected to it by one-and-one-half story hyphens. The house is further extended at either end by a brick arcade connected to a one-and-one-half, five-bay, gable-roofed garage at the east end and an identical arcade connected to a brick pergola with conical roof on the west. The interior features a center-hall plan with the living rooms on the first floor connected by a sweeping staircase to the bedrooms on the second floor. The interior is remarkable for the elaborate woodwork and rich architectural details; the design of each room is directly derived from such notable Georgian plantation houses as Stratford Hall, Westover, York Hall, and Shirley.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Gallison Hall is situated in Farmington, approximately three miles west of Charlottesville. The residence stands amidst forty-four acres of expansive lawns and woods and is reached by a long circular driveway from the south.

Gallison Hall, designed by the architect Stanhope Johnson in the Georgian Revival style, albeit with some eclectic touches, was built between 1931 and 1933 and is in excellent and unaltered condition. It consists of a two-and-one-half-story, five-bay, brick center section with a steeply pitched hipped roof flanked by one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, gable-roofed wings placed perpendicular to the center section and connected to the center section by one-and-one-half-story hyphens. The house is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers with a molded water table on all four facades. Rubbed jack arches are above both first- and second-story windows.

The house is further extended at either end by a seven-bay brick arcade connected to a one-and-one-half-story two-bay gable-roofed garage on the east and an identical arcade connected to an octagonal brick gazebo on the west.

Two two-story polygonal window bays, articulated by pilasters and paneling, flank the chimney on the west façade of the west wing. The north ends of the perpendicular wings also terminate

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE

1931-1933

1931-1933

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Stanhope Johnson

Charles F. Gillette (gardens)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Gallison Hall is an outstanding example of the Georgian Revival style and is one of the largest residences built in this style in Virginia. Designed by architect Stanhope Johnson between 1931 and 1933, Gallison Hall also reflects the eclectic tastes of its first owners Mr. and Mrs. Julio Suarez-Galban, who wished to include the best features of several famous colonial Virginia plantation houses, including Westover, Stratford Hall, and even Bacon's Castle. Set among its English gardens designed by Charles F. Gillette, Gallison Hall epitomizes the Georgian Revival country house ideal. In addition, the attention to traditional crafted moldings and brickwork reflected the then-current scholarly interest in the restoration of colonial Williamsburg. Gallison Hall represents Johnson's work at its most mature stage and was considered by the architect to be his finest commission from this period.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Gallison Hall stands on land patented to Michael Holland in 1744.¹ The eighteenth-century plantation house on this property, later known as Farmington, was altered along designs supplied by Thomas Jefferson in 1802. Its last private owners were the Wood family who sold in 1927 to form the nucleus of the Farmington Country Club development. The farm was subdivided into building lots.² In 1929 a forty-four-acre parcel was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Julio Suarez-Galban, both of whom had attended the University of Virginia and decided to remain in Charlottesville.³

In 1930 the Galbans commissioned the architect Stanhope Johnson, of Lynchburg, Virginia, to design their residence. He, along with the landscape architect Charles Gillette, worked closely with the Galbans throughout the initial design process. Work commenced in 1931 and was completed in 1933 at a reputed cost of \$145,000.⁴ The name Gallison Hall was derived from the combination of G(alban) and Allison, Mrs. Galban's mother's maiden name. Johnson's drawings, as well as other project documentation is in the collection of the Jones Memorial Library in Lynchburg.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albemarle County Land Records, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Chambers, S. Allen. Lynchburg-An Architectural History. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1981.

Galban, Evalyn. "Notes on Gallison Hall". Charlottesville: Albemarle County Historical Society, April 18, 1957.

Johnson, Stanhope and R.O. Brannan. (Booklet/Portfolio depicting architectural commissions in Lynchburg and elsewhere), 1928.

Stevens, William T. Virginia House Tour. Charlottesville: Stevenspost Publications, 1962.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings

Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State historic preservation office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☒ Other

Specify repository:

Department of Historic Resources

221 Governor Street, Richmond, Va.

Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 44 acres

UTM References

A
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Gallison Hall is shown as the solid black line encompassing the two parcels of land as shown on the accompanying map dated December 2, 1983 and contained in Deedbook 783, page 423 in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Albemarle County.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property include the original acreage purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Galban, the original owners and builders of Gallison Hall. The boundaries include the historic approach to the house from Farmington drive as well as the gardens designed by Charles Gillette.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey Henry

organization _____

street & number 1515 Rutledge Ave.

city or town Charlottesville,

date January 1990

telephone 804-293-8006

state Va. zip code 22903

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in polygonal bays; that on the west wing is open and arcaded and the east is enclosed with French doors topped by semi-circular fanlights.

A modillioned cornice above wall-of-Troy molding encircles the entire house. One of the many refinements seen at Gallison Hall is the use of graduated slate shingles; these taper in size as they reach the ridge line, giving a further illusion of height. Also notable are the clustered chimneys, patterned after those at Bacon's Castle, which are at the gable ends of the center section and the wings.

Six-over-nine sash windows with paneled shutters are used on the first story and six-over-six windows with louvered shutters light the second story. Nine-over-twelve windows are used on the first story of the north facade. There is a large twelve-over-twelve window above the center entrance on the north facade. Hipped roof dormers with six-over-six sash light the attic story.

A set of marble steps leads to the main entrance on the south facade, the design of which is taken directly from that of the river-front entrance of Westover plantation. The entrance features a double-door with a rectangular transom with muntins, suggesting a fanlight above flanked by fluted Corinthian pilasters. A modillioned swans-neck pediment with rosette ends above a cushioned frieze and a pineapple finial complete this elaborate entrance. The entrance on the north facade is less ornate and features Corinthian pilasters, a rectangular transom and a modillioned cornice above a cushioned frieze.

The floor plan of the interior features a wide center stair hall flanked by a dining room, kitchen and octagonal sitting room on the east, and a library, drawing room, and small lounge on the west. Four bedrooms, two dressing rooms, a sitting room and study make up the second floor, while the attic floor contains a large room used for social events.

The interior is exceptional for the wealth of architectural details and elaborate woodwork. Most of it is hand carved and all of it is of the highest calibre. In fact, the quality of the workmanship evident in the floors, plasterwork, stairs, paneling, and architectural details is equalled at only a few other houses in the state. The design of many of these details was taken directly from Georgian sources in Virginia and elsewhere and the architect and owners selected such famous sources as Stratford Hall, Westover, Shirley, York Hall and Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria.

The center stair hall features a floor of black and white marble squares and fully paneled walls, both features derived from York Hall. A modillioned cornice above a row of leaf-and-rosette molding encircles the entire room. The entrances to the adjoining rooms are framed by reeded architrave moulding with crosettes below a cushioned frieze of bound acanthus leaves. Above the doorway is a dentiled and modillioned swans neck pediment with rosette scrolls and a pineapple finial in bas relief. The design of these doors was taken from Shirley plantation.

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The stair rises in two stages and features a molded handrail and corkscrew newel post with square cap. There are three balusters per tread with each made up of three corkscrew sections going in opposite directions. The design of this stair was taken from that at Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria.

The library, to the left of the stair hall, is a copy of that at Stratford Hall and is the only one in which the wood, in this case pine, walnut and cherry, was left unpainted. Full length bookshelves with fluted Corinthian pilasters on either side line the east wall and frame the fireplace on the west as well. The marble hearth and opening are framed by egg-and-dart molding and crossetted corners below a mantel shelf with dentilled entablature, scrolled brackets and a paneled frieze. There is a plain paneled overmantel. A full classical entablature encircles the room.

A hall leads from the library to the drawing room on the west, the most ornate of the rooms at Gallison Hall. No one room or house was used as a prototype for the design and architectural detailing of this room. Instead, its features were derived from several sources, including Gunston Hall, Woodlands (in Philadelphia), the designs of William Buckland in Annapolis and the designs of Inigo Jones. The room is entered through an arched door with a foliated bracket keystone and shell-design molding flanked by fluted Ionic pilasters on raised bases. A full entablature with a frieze of carved flowers and fruit encircles the room. An entrance on the north features egg-and-dart molding with crossettes, a foliated cushion frieze and broken pediment. The polygonal bays with French windows flank the center fireplace.

The fireplace is the most prominent architectural feature of the room and is executed in the English manner of Inigo Jones and William Kent. Tapered pilasters with carved fruit garlands, foliated brackets and rosette corner blocks flank the hearth opening. The frieze features garland swags and a center panel with a shell design. The overmantel is made up of more scrollwork, a foliated cushion frieze with garlanded center panel below a dentilled broken pediment with a Prince of Wales feather design for the finial.

The dining room, to the right of the center hall, is a copy of the Baltimore Room at the Metropolitan Museum and is in the Federal style. Two semi-circular alcoves fitted with shelves and ornamented by an inverted shell design at the top flank the fireplace. The fireplace features paired colonnettes, a frieze of alternating rectangles and an ellipse and rope molding below the mantel shelf. On the opposite wall is a shallow elliptical arched alcove with reeded molding and fluted colonnettes. The reeded molding is repeated in the chairrail and ceiling cornice and is also used in the fireplace.

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The bedrooms on the second floor are arranged around a center hall. The architectural details are much simpler than on the first floor although the fireplace mantels are all well-crafted examples of the Federal style. A sitting room features a fireplace with fluted pilasters and reeded frieze. It is flanked by an arched door and arched cupboard ornamented with a shell design and fluted keystone. One of the bedrooms features woodwork in a "country" variant of the Federal style with exaggerated Greek architraves around the doors and a mantel featuring a frieze of concentric squares and oval sunbursts.

A set of Chippendale stairs derived from those at Brandon plantation lead to the so-called Gay Nineties room in the attic. This room, used for dances and parties by the original owners, contains Victorian light fixtures, a bar, and several alcoves with banquettes and was furnished in a turn-of-the-century manner.

The landscape architect Charles F. Gillette had collaborated with Stanhope Johnson several times previously, including Belvoir (1928) in Charlottesville. Gillette's landscape designs at Gallison Hall were simple and clearly subordinated to the elaborate architecture. A row of deciduous trees stands on either side of the long drive which terminates in the imposing Georgian-style gateposts derived from those at Westover. A small garden of boxwoods, perennials, and spring flowering bulbs, divided by brick walks is adjacent to the brick pergola on the west. To the southwest of the house is a compact rose garden and to the northwest, at the foot of a flight of brick stairs is a large ornamental parterre made up of low-growing evergreens. The parterre had nearly disappeared from neglect until it was rediscovered by the present owners who are currently restoring it. To the east of the house are several fenced pastures; in fact, Gallison Hall is the only property in the Farmington subdivision in which farm animals are permitted and the Galbans kept several ponies and horses there during their ownership. The grounds and gardens are well-maintained and contribute to the formality of the architecture.

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Stanhope Johnson (1882-1973) was one of Lynchburg's most distinguished twentieth-century architects and a leading exponent of the Georgian Revival style in Virginia. Associated as early as age seventeen with the architect Edward Frye, he assisted in the design of Court Street Methodist Church in Lynchburg in 1902, his earliest known work.⁵ He became part of the firm of McLaughlin, Petit & Johnson and was commissioned soon thereafter to design several residences and public schools. The firm was dissolved in 1917 and Johnson continued on his own or with a succession of junior associates until the 1960s.⁶ At his death in 1973 he was the dean of Lynchburg's architects.

Johnson's range of work was extensive. He and his firm received numerous commissions for hotel and commercial buildings throughout Virginia, Maryland, and North and South Carolina.⁷ In Lynchburg alone he was responsible for the Centenary Methodist Church (1925), Presser Hall at Randolph-Macon Woman's College (1929), Virginia Baptist Hospital (1920-1924), the Woodstock Apartments, the gymnasium at Lynchburg College (1922), the Virginia Hotel, and numerous residences in the wealthier sections of the city.⁸ One of his most important commissions was for the design of the Allied Arts Building in Lynchburg, a seventeen-story skyscraper in the Art Moderne style and until recently Lynchburg's tallest building. In Charlottesville he was responsible for the Monticello Hotel, opened in 1926 with much civic fanfare, and Belvoir (1928), a Georgian Revival residence that resembles Gunston Hall.⁹

Although his facility with a number of different styles was well demonstrated, by the mid-1920s Johnson had settled on Georgian as the style of choice for residential design. His work is often labeled "James River Georgian", as distinct from the early twentieth century Colonial Revival, for its liberal borrowing of architectural details from the colonial plantation houses along the James River. In this, he was joined by other well-known architects practicing in Virginia such as William L. Bottomley, Percy Griffin, Eugene Bradbury, and Marshall S. Wells. These architects drew upon the burgeoning academic and popular interest in the Georgian architectural heritage of Virginia. Part of this was due no doubt to the rediscovery and restoration of Williamsburg going on at the same time. But Johnson, like the best of the Georgian Revival architects, was no mere copyist. He combined a mastery of eighteenth-century detail and style with a recognition of the demands of his clients for twentieth-century comfort and convenience. The result at Gallison Hall was an elegant blending of several different periods of Georgian architecture along with many up-to-date features.

With the Galbans, Johnson was faced with clients of somewhat eclectic tastes and a more than amateur's knowledge of Georgian architecture. For many years they had toured the plantation houses along the James River and in the Northern Neck and had noted and recorded

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those architectural features they particularly admired. Their desire was to incorporate as many of those features as possible in their new residence. Thus Johnson was given the task of incorporating in an harmonious manner architectural elements taken from Westover, Shirley, and Stratford Hall plantations, among several others. The result was a surprising successful and integrated design, with the disparate architectural features (even the Jacobean chimneys taken from Bacon's Castle) contributing rather than distracting from the total composition. No doubt part of this cohesiveness is due to the uniformly high quality of the details of brickwork and carving evident on both the exterior and the interior. In its scale and quality of execution, Gallison Hall is rivalled by few other Georgian Revival houses in Virginia.

After more than a half century of ownership by the Galban family, Gallison Hall was bought by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Dimitri Nicholas in 1983. The changes effected by the Nicholases have been few: central air-conditioning was added, the kitchen modernized, and the interior was repainted. A small ornamental fountain was added at the end of the circular drive, and the parterre to the northwest of the house is being carefully restored. The house is often open for Garden Week and holiday house tours.

References:

- 1- William T. Stevens, Virginia House Tour, (Charlottesville: Stevenspost Publications), p.
- 2- Ibid., p. 170.
- 3- Evelyn Galban, "Gallison Hall", (Charlottesville: Albemarle County Historical Society)
- 4- Ibid., p.2.
- 5- S. Allen Chambers, Lynchburg-An Architectural History, (Charlottesville:University of Virginia Press), p. 232.
- 6- Ibid., p. 202.
- 7- Stanhope Johnson and R.O. Bramman (Booklet/Portfolio depicting architectural commission in Lynchburg and elsewhere), pages 1-45.
- 8- Chambers, op.cit., p. 233.
- 9- Johnson and Bramman, pages 2, 17, 23.

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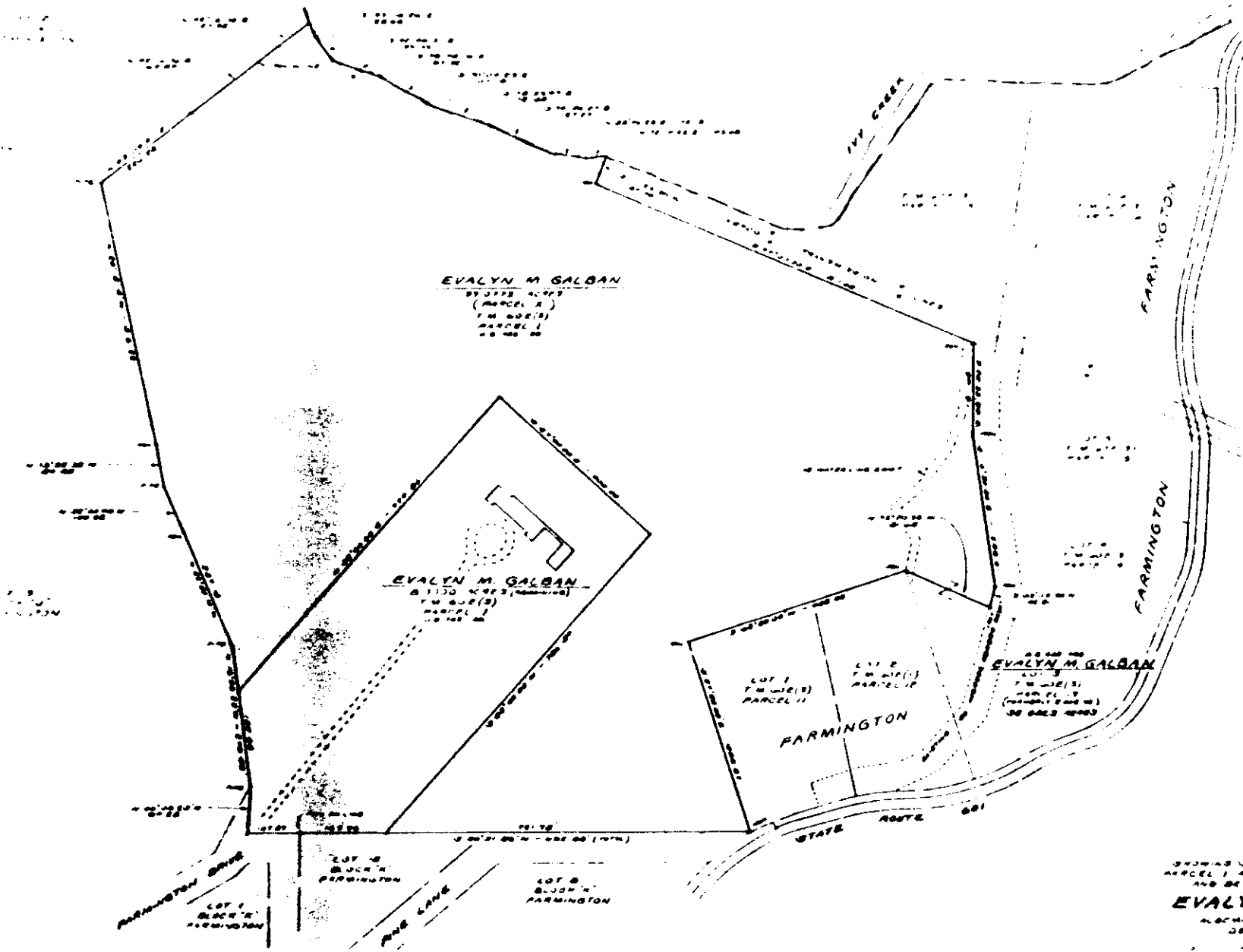
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UTM REFERENCES

- A 17/716440/4216340
- B 17/716460/4216220
- C 17/716400/4216220
- D 17/716280/4216160
- E 17/716360/4216060
- F 17/716070/4215940
- G 17/716010/4216090
- H 17/715890/4216280
- I 17/715960/4216420
- J 17/716190/4216400
- K 17/716190/4216360

12-16-85
CORRECTION
100



NOTE
PARCEL 'A', CONTAINING 87.0778 ACRES
AND BEING A PORTION OF PARCEL 1 OF
SHEET 602(2) OF THE ALBEMARLE
COUNTY TAX MAPS TO BE ADDED TO
AND BECOME A PART OF PARCEL 19 OF
FM 602(2), BEING LOT 3 FARMINGTON

NOTE
PROPERTY CURRENTLY OWNED BY A
PARCEL 'B' TO RETAIN A DEVELOPMENT
RIGHTS, AND THE REMAINDER OF PARCEL
ONE TO HAVE A DEVELOPMENT RIGHT



PLAN
SHOWING SURVEY AND DIVISION OF
PARCEL 1 AS SHOWN BY THE MAP 602(2)
AND BEING THE PROPERTY OF
EVALYN M. GALBAN
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA
DECEMBER 2, 1988

SCALE 1" = 100'
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